



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,319	11/21/2003	Zhen Chen	1856-24700 (9481.0-01)	3074
31889	7590	03/29/2005	EXAMINER	
DAVID W. WESTPHAL CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY - I.P. Legal P.O. BOX 1267 PONONCA CITY, OK 74602-1267			HAILEY, PATRICIA L	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		1755

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/719,319	CHEN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Patricia L. Hailey	<b>Art Unit</b> 1755	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2004.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                    2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6)  Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.  
7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on 21 November 2003 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/30/04

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. ***Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allison et al. (U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0068148).***

Allison et al. teach oxidative dehydrogenation catalysts comprising a Group VIII promoter metal (e.g., platinum, palladium, or a combination thereof) present at a promoter loading of between 0.005 and about 0.1 weight percent on a refractory support (e.g., zirconia, alumina, or combinations thereof, silicon nitride), and one or more base metals preferably selected from Groups IB, IIB, IVB-VIIB, IIA-VA, scandium, yttrium, actinium, iron, cobalt, nickel, manganese, chromium, tin, copper, gold, their corresponding oxides, and combinations thereof. The base metal

is present at a base metal loading of between about 0.5 and about 20 weight percent of the catalyst. See paragraphs [0022]-[0023] of Allison et al., as well as the claims.

Paragraph [0031] of Allison et al. discloses that combinations of the base metals are within the scope of Allison et al.'s invention. Note that, additionally, base metals such as manganese and copper are disclosed as exemplary base metals. From this, one of ordinary skill in the art would easily deduce that Allison et al. reasonably suggests Applicants' claimed dehydrogenation catalysts, e.g., the combination of copper and what Applicants' claim as a "non-copper base metal".

Paragraph [0032] of Allison et al. discloses, in addition to the aforementioned base metal loading percentage range, that the molar ratio of the optional base metal to the promoter metal is preferably 10 or more.

In paragraph [0037] of Allison et al., exemplary supports are disclosed, including zirconia, stabilized zirconia, alumina, various stabilized aluminas, silicon nitride, and magnesia (magnesium oxide).

The promoter metal and the base metal may be deposited onto the support by any method known in the art, such as by incipient wetness, impregnation, chemical vapor deposition, and co-precipitation. See paragraph [0038] of Allison et al. Allison et al. do not specifically teach the ratio of copper to base metal. However, in view of the feasibility in Allison et al. to employ combinations of metals to obtain exemplary catalysts of Allison et al., it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to select from the suitable promoter and base metals disclosed in Allison et al.

and obtain Applicants' claimed catalyst. It has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 U.S.P.Q 416.

All claim limitations not specifically addressed are considered within the purview of the prior art.

### *Conclusion*

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia L. Hailey whose telephone number is (571) 272-1369. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on (571) 272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 1700 Receptionist, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1700.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Patricia L. Hailey*  
Patricia L. Hailey/plh  
Examiner, Art Unit 1755

March 20, 2005

*J.A. LORENZO*  
J.A. LORENZO  
PRIMARY EXAMINER